GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1798
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
RESTRICTION ON SIZES OF PACKAGES
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the restriction on sizes of packages to be sold in India under the Package Commodity Act, Schedule-III (Weights & Measures) Rule could be unfair restrictive practice against import from non metric system countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) to (c): The 3rd schedule to the Packaged Commodities Rules1977 require certain products to be packed in prescribed sizes, for sale within the country. Prior to 5.4.2002, imported packages were exempted from complying with the requirement of the 3rd Schedule as they were picked off the shelf and not made specially to meet the Indian market. However in the last few years, import of such packages have increased many fold and the exemption provided under the Rules had placed imported packages a t an advantageous position in comparison to local packages. To remove this anomaly, the exemption provided to imported packages as above was withdrawn with effect from 5.4.02 placing them at par with the indigenous packages. If net quantity in package imported from non metric countries is given in non-metric units, the said Rules provide for the importer to declare the equivalent net quantity in terms of standard units on the package.